


To the Food Safety Technology Department (USDA):

This letter is in reference to Food Irradiation for the National School Lunch Program. I strongly support the efforts of those individuals and major corporations that bring this technology to the front lines in this age of uncertainty. I have been in the food manufacturing industry for the last nine years and have seen many health sanitary issues that find its way into the general public. No matter how excellent a company may have in their overall sanitation or HACCP Plan, 100% compliance is an understatement. Statistics indicate that a large portion of the public still suffer from health issues associated from deadly pathogenic organisms such as E. coli 0157:H7, Salmonella, or Listeria to name a few. There is no doubt that bacterial contamination is the No. 1 food safety concern among parents and their children. Annually, bacterial contamination in food causes 5,100 deaths, 325,000 hospitalizations, 76 million cases of food poisoning, and 22 million pounds of recalled food in the year 2000. All these instances can be prevented if Food Irradiation can be made mandatory as a final step before human consumption. There is no doubt that I strongly stand behind the efforts of Food Irradiators and their quest to provide safe and wholesome food products to the entire United States population comprising of men, women and especially our children. Please, let's all do our part and protect our National School Lunch Program from being a statistic.

The food products that need major focus is beef, vegetables, fruits, processed foods, and poultry. I strongly encourage the USDA to help stand behind this Food Irradiation technology and support the efforts to provide safe nourishment to all Americans and our children.

Sincerely,



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